Holiday planner: What to see and do in DFW

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The Dallas Morning News

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CONGRESS

House passes its tax overhaul plan

GOP clears hurdle as bill is approved with no Democratic support

By TOM BENNING
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WASHINGTON — Republicans on Thursday pushed through the House a massive $1.5 trillion overhaul of the nation's tax code, clearing a critical hurdle in the party's warp-speed sprint to achieve a major legislative victory by the end of the year.

The bill, approved 227-205 with no Democratic support, would fuel far-reaching tax cuts in Texas and beyond, particularly on the business side. But its axing of prized breaks — and the fact that some relief expires over time — means also that millions would see their tax bills increase.

And other significant roadblocks lie ahead, since the Senate GOP has taken a far different approach in revamping the tax code.

See **HOUSE** Page 7A

AT A GLANCE

Some highlights

Personal income tax rates condensed from seven brackets to four: 12, 25, 35 and 39.6 percent.
Standard deduction roughly doubled, $12,000 for individuals and $24,000 for couples.
Per-child tax credit raised from $1,000 to $1,600 and extended to families earning up to $230,000.
Home mortgage interest deduction limited to interest paid on the first $500,000 of the loan.
State and local taxes deduction mostly eliminated.
Medical expense deductions eliminated.
Alternative minimum tax repealed.

TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE | GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL

Lockup on brink of crisis, reports show

Sex, assaults detailed; officials cite problems hiring, retaining staff

By BRANDI GRISSOM and SUE AMBROSE
Staff Writers

Youths at the Gainesville State School say staff paid them with drugs and cash to assault one another.

A psychologist at the campus gave pornography to a boy there to encourage the young man to masturbate in front of him.

A youth attacked a guard and stole his radio so he couldn't call for help. By the time help arrived, the officer had a broken nose and needed four stitches over his eye.

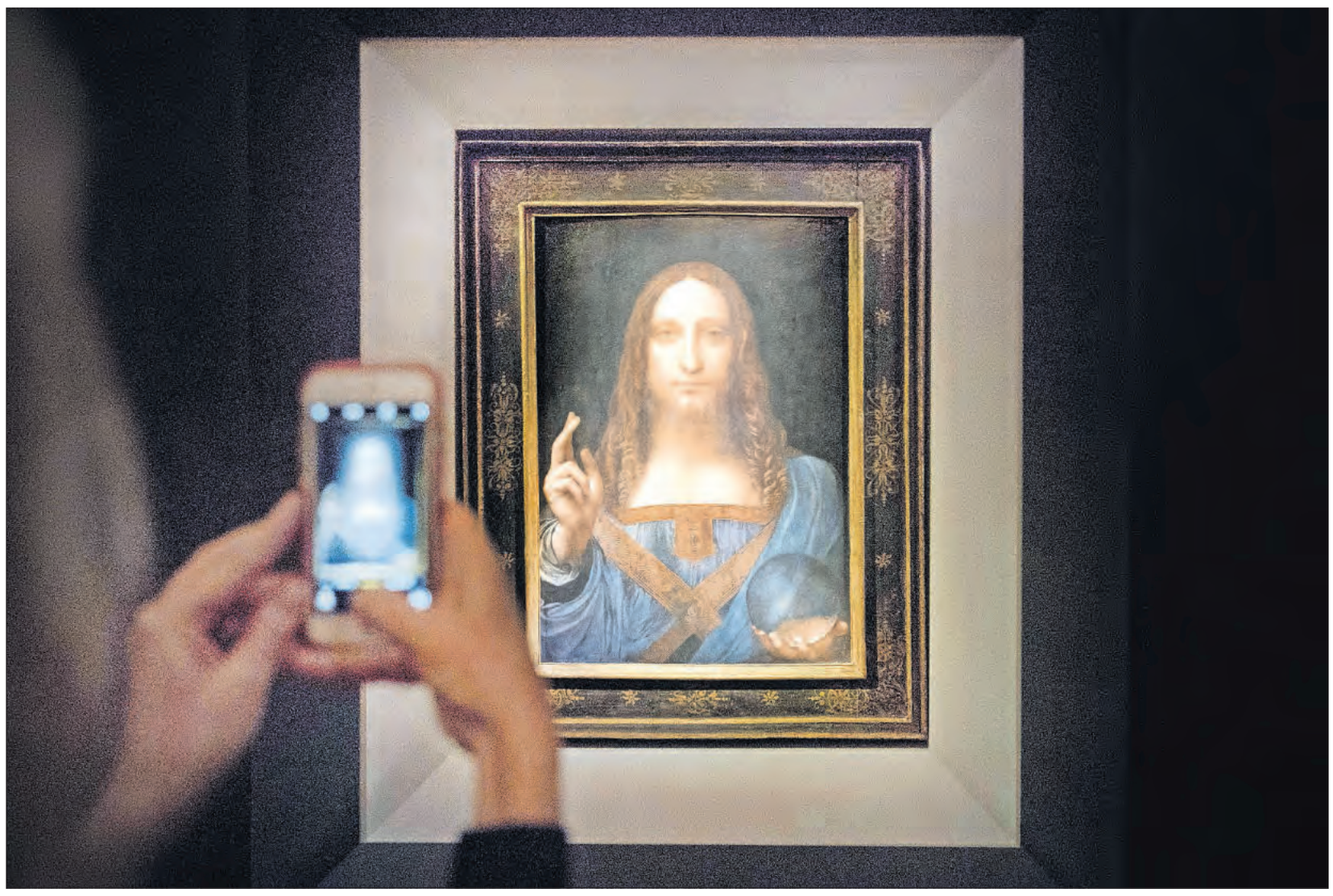
The Gainesville State School for delinquent juveniles has been on the verge of crisis for more than a year, according to interviews and hundreds of pages of documents obtained by *The Dallas Morning News*. The youths — and staff members who are supposed to protect them — are often abused and victimized.

"It's a bad culture," said Debbie Unruh, an independent watchdog charged with ensuring the safety of youths in the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's custody. "It's a dangerous culture."

See **REPORTS** Page 13A

ART

Leonardo's prize? DMA had a shot



Drew Angerer/Getty Images

A visitor snaps a photo of *Salvator Mundi* at Christie's New York Auction House. The painting sold for a record $450.3 million Wednesday night.

Ex-director says painting that sold for $450M sat in museum's storeroom in '12

By MICHAEL GRANBERRY
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Five years ago, the Dallas Museum of Art had just hired a new director. Soon after arriving, Maxwell Anderson approached his board of trustees about buying the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece *Salvator Mundi (Savior of the World)*.

It carried with it, however, a daunting price tag — $125 million — so the sale didn't happen.

In light of Wednesday's screaming headline in the art world, the price offered to the DMA turned out to be a pittance. The same painting sold at auction Wednesday for a world-record $450.3 million, more than $3^1/_2$ times what Anderson and the DMA were asked to pay.

Rare company

Salvator Mundi joined the rare club of paintings that recently sold for more than $100 million, including:

- *Untitled* by Jean-Michel Basquiat, $110.5 million in May
- *Women of Algiers* by Pablo Picasso, $179 million in 2015
- *Nu Couché* by Amedeo Modigliani, $170 million in 2015
- *Silver Car Crash* by Andy Warhol, $105 million in 2013

"It's the same one," the former DMA director, who left in 2015, confirmed Wednesday night from his home in New York. "We had it for eight months at the museum."

Wednesday's sale price at auction means *Salvator Mundi* is now No. 1 — it represents the highest price ever paid for a piece of art in the history of the world. And yes, it could have been part of the DMA's permanent collection.

Anderson said he was approached about the painting even before he took the job as DMA director in January 2012.

See **DMA** Page 11A

Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

Maxwell Anderson approached the DMA board about buying the painting for $125 million in 2012.

SHERIN MATHEWS CASE

Girl's mother arrested

Couple left 3-year-old home alone before they reported she was missing, police say

By CLAIRE Z. CARDONA
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The mother of a Richardson girl found dead last month in a culvert was arrested Thursday because police say she and her husband left the 3-year-old home alone the night before she was reported missing.

Sini Mathews and husband Wesley Mathews, who was arrested last month, went out with their biological daughter on Oct. 6, leaving Sherin Mathews because she refused to drink her milk, police said.

The 35-year-old mother was arrested about 3 p.m. Thursday

See **GIRL** Page 12A

SENATE | SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Franken will face ethics probe

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — A growing national outcry over sexual harassment reached the Senate on Thursday, when a radio newscaster accused Al Franken, D-Minn., of kissing and groping her without consent during a 2006 USO tour of the Middle East before he took public office.

Franken, who has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate, almost immediately released an apology to the newscaster,

See **FRANKEN** Page 2A

BUSINESS

Tribes seek oil pipeline safeguards

New challenges are filed over the Dakota Access oil pipeline, and the Keystone pipeline leaks 210,000 gallons in South Dakota. **2D**

NATION

Cornyn sponsors gun legislation

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas is co-sponsor of a bipartisan bill that would strengthen the background check system for gun buyers. **7A**

INSIDE

Lottery	2A	Obituaries	6-7B	Jumble	7D
Nation	6A	Autos	13C		
World	10A	SportsTV	2C		
Editorials	14A	Markets	4D		
Viewpoints	15A	Classified	6-8D		

GUIDE
Dear Abby, Hax, Movies, Television, Comics and Puzzles

Windy and warmer

H 82
L 67

Metro, back page

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